

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

BBC →

CC: C/FCS

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CITE FBIS/LONDON 12759

TO: FBIS.

REF: FBIS 08004

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FOLLOWING FROM RAE:

"1. SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT OBSTACLES PREVENTING FBIS SETTING UP IN PAKISTAN WHICH LOOKED GOOD FOR RECEPTION, AND APPRECIATE AND SHARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT FULL COVERAGE OF THE AREAS YOU MENTION. I CANNOT BE SURE THAT A BBC OPERATION EITHER IN PAKISTAN OR QATAR (IF IT PROVES SUITABLE) WOULD BE ANY MORE WELCOME AT THE PRESENT TIME OR, JUDGING FROM RECENT FAILURE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR COVERAGE OF IRAN, THAT WE WILL GET MUCH PRACTICAL HELP FROM OUR PAYMASTERS. NEVERTHELESS I AM MORE THAN WILLING THAT WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER GO.

"2. I THINK SUCH AN APPROACH IS MORE LIKELY TO SUCCEED IF IT COMES FROM THE US GOVERNMENT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AT HIGH LEVEL, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF (1) THE NEED FOR FULLER INFORMATION FROM THESE AREAS; (2) THE OBSTACLES TO FBIS OPERATING THERE; (3) THE BBC'S NORMAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COVERAGE OF IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE AREA; (4) THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BBC MIGHT BE ABLE TO OPERATE THERE EITHER UNDER ITS OWN STEAM OR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OR EMBASSY; AND (5) IT WOULD BE JOINTLY FINANCED.

"3. IF YOU AGREE WITH THIS GENERAL LINE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW WHETHER AND WHEN THE APPROACH IS TO BE MADE AND TO WHOM SO THAT I CAN PREPARE THE GROUND A BIT."

4. RVV 22 MAR 85.
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